

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

27 September 1965

SUBJECT : WILCOTT, James B. Jr.

FILE NUMBER: #109301

1. Reference is made to Mr. BUNN's report of interview of the Subject in Miami dated 28 July 1965. Although the Subject had been summoned by cable on 20 July, no reply had been received as of 27 July. Upon coordinating with Jerry MULLANE SO/WH division on this date I was advised that Subject had arrived in his office at that very moment. Mr. MULLANE sent him forthwith to Room 4 E 58 where the Subject was interviewed by the writer.

2. The Subject advised that he had arrived at the Headquarters area early last evening and was staying at the Park Arlington Motel at Arlington Blvd. and U. S. 50. His room number is 205-A and he may be reached on 524-4000. Subject further advised that he is ostensibly an employee of the (Melmar Corporation) in Miami, Florida.

24
3. I reminded the Subject that at the time that he was interviewed by Mr. BUNN he had volunteered to take a polygraph examination on any of the information which he had provided. Subject replied that he recalled this very well and that he was perfectly willing to take this examination.

4. I asked the Subject if he had been in contact with any of the Civil Rights Workers about whom he had reported previously, since going to Florida. I asked him most specifically in connection with Ray ROBINSON and Alex PASSIKLOFF. He replied that he had not seen them since the New York trip in April of this year. He qualified that statement to this extent wherein he stated that ROBINSON had called his home

SECRET

on several occasions after April 25 but Subject had already departed. He explained that his wife joined him in Florida approximately one week after his arrival there. ROBINSON had informed his wife that he was coming out to visit her, however, he never showed up.

5. With regard to PASSIKLOFF, Subject states that he is vague and may have talked to Alex on the telephone on one occasion prior to his departure from Florida. He believes that on the one occasion when he spoke to Alex Alex mentioned his classes on labor unions, and the Subject said he put him off by saying that he would be in touch with him later. The Subject stated that on the several occasions prior to his departure for Florida he avoided talking to Alex because of Mr. SHROUDT's admonition against becoming any further involved with these people.

6. With respect to his midnight trip to New York in the company of Alex PASSIKLOFF and Al SMITH, I asked the Subject what his wife's reaction was to this rather hasty decision. The Subject replied that his wife is used to his meandering and did not question him nor express any surprise in any way. He explained that his wife is more the home body and more introverted than he, where as he is rather gregarious. The Subject described his marriage as a happy one and states that he and his wife and six year old boy live in perfect harmony.

7. I next questioned the Subject about his visit to the Corcoran street address where he and Alex were apparently the only white persons. The Subject reminded me that the wife of the home owner of that address was a white woman. He was never introduced to his host and hostess and never heard their names.

8. I asked the Subject how he knew that marijuana was being smoked during this get together. He stated that Ray ROBINSON told him they were smoking "pot". Ray offered him one but he refused and used as an excuse that he had once tried it but had become ill. Although Ray was the only person whom he saw smoking, it was obvious from the number of hand rolled cigarette butts in the ash tray that others had also smoked it. He described the meeting as being made up of little

SECRET

14-00000

SECRET

groups of people sitting around on the floor who paid no particular attention to him. Alex talked to him about labor organization and advised him that he conducted classes and Subject could join his class. Alex did not say where or when these classes were held and Subject did not pursue it any farther. Subject states that he had not drunk much at this time possibly four or five drinks, however, he was interested in what was going on and purposely held back on the liquor.

9. From Corcoran Street he accompanied Alex and Ray to Alex's room at the Cairo Hotel. He estimates that they may have spent as much as one hour there and had one drink going from there to jazz land on 14 Street. While at Alex's room he saw that Alex had numerous copies of the WORKER displayed. Alex told him that he had all kinds of literature and that if a member of the John Birch Society were to visit him he could provide that person with the particular literature to his liking. The Subject explained that Alex made no bones of the fact that he was a Communist Party member, however, he stated that he did not always agree with Moscow or Peking, however, he had worked for the Party all his life and had been jailed for them on occasion.

10. Subject was next questioned about the events leading up to his arrest with Ray ROBINSON in November 1964. The Subject stated that on that particular evening Ray had invited him to his brother's home to meet his brother and sister-in-law. The Subject does not remember where this house is located. He states that the brother is named Robert ROBINSON and he is an employee of the District of Columbia government. He is reported to be a radio technician servicing radios on cars owned by the District of Columbia. During the course of the hour or so that he spend there there was no talk of civil rights. Ray had told him that his brother is not a civil rights worker and Ray is constantly trying to recruit him.

11. From the ROBINSON house Subject and Ray went to the Subject's home in Forrestville. While they were there the Subject consumed several scotches while Ray talked with Subject's wife. Ray showed her some draft notes he had compiled for a book he was proposing to write. He was trying to interest Subject's wife in organizing and assembling it for him. According to the Subject this proposed book was although autobiographical in nature it described his experiences in the civil rights movement.

SECRET

SECRET

12. The Subject states that when he went to drive Ray home the liquor suddenly hit him and he stopped the car. He moved over to permit Ray to drive. The Subject believes that the scotch on top of the bourbon he'd had at the brother's house coupled with the lack of sleep the night before put him out. Subject was very vague concerning the circumstances surrounding his arrest. He vaguely recalls a police officer talking to him and recalls being placed in the patrol wagon. The Subject denies fighting with Ray and stated that Ray was pushing and shoving him in an effort to rouse him. Ray told him that he wanted to take him somewhere for coffee to help him sober up. Subject claims that at first he thought perhaps Ray had done something which antagonized the officer thereby causing their arrest. He stated that he called the officer a day or so later to ask what had actually happened and learned that it was the officer's impression that they had been fighting. The officer stated he locked them up for his own protection.

13. The Subject was again reminded that he was remiss in his duties in not reporting this at the time. The Subject stated in order to justify his failure to report that he felt it was an unjustified arrest. He explains this by saying that had he been driving the car in his intoxicated condition it would have been another matter.

14. With regard to Subject's picketing activity, the Subject stated that they had spent some time picketing the White House with a group from All Souls Unitarian Church. He states the nature of this protest was the execution of the Reverend REEVE a clergyman who lost his life in Alabama. He stated that he carried a sign bearing the legend which said, "stop brutality in Alabama."

15. With regard to his contact with the ROTONDIS, JACKSON, PASSIKLOFF, ROBINSON and MONSOUNIS the Subject stated positively that there has been no contact with these people either in person, by telephone, or by mail since early April prior to his Florida assignment.

16. Subject states that he has not participated in any civil rights activity of any kind since his assignment to Florida.

17. The Subject was next asked if he had been in contact with Al SMITH, the Howard University student since the New York escapade. He replied that he has not seen nor heard from him since the drive back to Washington.

20. With respect to the use of drugs, the Subject states that he has never used drugs in any form.

21. With regard to his drinking, Subject stated that aside from the November incident which culminated in his arrest he has never drunk to such an extent wherein his faculties were impaired.

22. The Subject was again asked in regard to any contact with Alex either immediately before or after his arrival in Florida and he stated that but for the one phone call he has not been in touch with him. The Subject explained that after his talk with SHROUD, his wife told people who called that he was "out of town job hunting," but did not give any location. Upon leaving the area the Subject states he has used his mother's home as a forwarding address. He states that this is in care of his brother-in-law Clifford MOSHER on Brinkerhof Ave. in Utica.

23. In answer to the question as to whether or not the Subject entertains any sympathy for Communism he replied that he has none.

24. The Subject was next asked if he had ever been the recipient of a recruiter approach by Alex or anyone else in the civil rights or Communist Party movement. He replied that during the drive back from New York he mentioned leaving the government and going into business for himself. He stated that at the time he was thinking of opening a

14-00000

book store. Alex is supposed to have said, "don't leave your government job, you are just where we want you in the Pentagon." Subject stated that his reply to this was just a laugh. The Subject claims that at this point he had adopted a rather frivolous attitude toward Alex. He explained further that he considers him dangerous. By this he does not mean that he was personally afraid of Alex, but that he recognized him as a revolutionary. The Subject quoted ROBINSON as saying that Alex worked against "Snick" and Ray sighted an incident where Alex kept trying to stir up the looters in Brooklyn, New York in 1964 when snick was trying to calm them down. Subject likewise stated that during the trip Alex had bragged that he incited riots in Brooklyn, Jersey City, Philadelphia, and perhaps Cleveland.

25. The Subject next told me of a session with Alex in the homosexual's apartment in New York City. Subject identifies these as Russ BATTLE and John BROOKS, 160 West 85 Street, Apt. 6-A. He stated that in this apartment he also met a young man named Weldon YOUNG of 436 Street, Nicholas Ave, New York City. Subject described him as being either a student of pharmacology or of medicine at a New York City school. The Subject claimed that at one point both homosexuals and he told Alex that they were not in sympathy with Communism, where upon Alex became very angry and finally waxed sullen. Subject was next asked for his impression of the WE DuBois group in New York. He stated that it was clear to him that this organization was dominated or heavily infiltrated by CP members. He states that Alex circulated throughout the hall talking to various groups and paid little attention to him. The Subject was approached by an elderly well-dressed negro man who obviously commanded great respect from other members of this organization. This man, whose name he did not learn, spoke to him at length the tenor of which was that the United States is the aggressor in Viet Nam.

26. At this point the Subject was excused and told to report back to this office at 900 hours on 28 September.

Daniel A. Cullen

:mks